

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. Portable information terminal equipment comprising:  
two units;  
a connecting section for connecting the two units with each other for relative movement;  
5 a connecting section driving mechanism for changing the relative positions of the two units to open/ close the units; and  
a controller for controlling the connecting section driving mechanism to move either or both the units so that they are located in prescribed relative positions when receiving a call or a message to thereby  
10 inform a user of the receipt of the call or the message.
2. Portable information terminal equipment comprising:  
two units;  
a connecting section for connecting the two units with each other for relative movement;  
5 a connecting section driving mechanism for changing the relative positions of the two units to open/ close the units; and  
a controller for controlling the connecting section driving mechanism to move either or both the units so that they are located in prescribed relative positions when receiving a call or a message based on  
10 information about the sender of the call or the message and/ or the received message to thereby inform a user of the receipt of the call or the message.
3. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 1, wherein the controller provides open/ close operation control so that the two units are located in prescribed relative positions when an incoming call is not answered.

4. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 2, wherein the controller provides open/ close operation control so that the two units are located in prescribed relative positions when an incoming call is not answered.

5. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 1, further comprising a detector for detecting the placed condition of the equipment, wherein:

the controller provides open/ close operation control based on  
5 the placed condition of the equipment detected by the detector.

6. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 2, further comprising a detector for detecting the placed condition of the equipment, wherein:

the controller provides open/ close operation control based on  
5 the placed condition of the equipment detected by the detector.

7. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 3, further comprising a detector for detecting the placed condition of the equipment, wherein:

the controller provides open/ close operation control based on  
5 the placed condition of the equipment detected by the detector.

8. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 4, further comprising a detector for detecting the placed condition of the equipment, wherein:

the controller provides open/ close operation control based on  
5 the placed condition of the equipment detected by the detector.

9. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in

claim 2, further comprising a setting interface for registering user settings with respect to the sender information, received message information and the relative positions of the two units, wherein:

5           the controller controls the connecting section driving mechanism in a manner so as to change the relative positions of the units when receiving a call or a message based on the user settings.

10. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 3, further comprising a setting interface for registering user settings with respect to the sender information, received message information and the relative positions of the two units, wherein:

5           the controller controls the connecting section driving mechanism in a manner so as to change the relative positions of the units when receiving a call or a message based on the user settings.

11. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 4, further comprising a setting interface for registering user settings with respect to the sender information, received message information and the relative positions of the two units, wherein:

5           the controller controls the connecting section driving mechanism in a manner so as to change the relative positions of the units when receiving a call or a message based on the user settings.

12. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 5, further comprising a setting interface for registering user settings with respect to the sender information, received message information and the relative positions of the two units, wherein:

5           the controller controls the connecting section driving mechanism in a manner so as to change the relative positions of the units when receiving a call or a message based on the user settings.

13. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 6, further comprising a setting interface for registering user settings with respect to the sender information, received message information and the relative positions of the two units, wherein:

5           the controller controls the connecting section driving mechanism in a manner so as to change the relative positions of the units when receiving a call or a message based on the user settings.

14. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 7, further comprising a setting interface for registering user settings with respect to the sender information, received message information and the relative positions of the two units, wherein:

5           the controller controls the connecting section driving mechanism in a manner so as to change the relative positions of the units when receiving a call or a message based on the user settings.

15. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 8, further comprising a setting interface for registering user settings with respect to the sender information, received message information and the relative positions of the two units, wherein:

5           the controller controls the connecting section driving mechanism in a manner so as to change the relative positions of the units when receiving a call or a message based on the user settings.

16. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 1, wherein the two units repeatedly open/ close at prescribed intervals under the control of the controller.

17. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in

claim 2, wherein the two units repeatedly open/ close at prescribed intervals under the control of the controller.

18. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 3, wherein the two units repeatedly open/ close at prescribed intervals under the control of the controller.

19. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 4, wherein the two units repeatedly open/ close at prescribed intervals under the control of the controller.

20. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 5, wherein the two units repeatedly open/ close at prescribed intervals under the control of the controller.

21. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 6, wherein the two units repeatedly open/ close at prescribed intervals under the control of the controller.

22. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 9, wherein the two units repeatedly open/ close at prescribed intervals under the control of the controller.

23. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 1, further comprising a battery state detector for detecting whether or not a battery, which is a power supply for driving the equipment, is being charged and/ or the remaining amount of charge in the battery,  
5 wherein:

the controller controls the connecting section driving mechanism based on the result of the detection by the battery state

detector.

24. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 2, further comprising a battery state detector for detecting whether or not a battery, which is a power supply for driving the equipment, is being charged and/ or the remaining amount of charge in the battery,

5 wherein:

the controller controls the connecting section driving mechanism based on the result of the detection by the battery state detector.

25. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 3, further comprising a battery state detector for detecting whether or not a battery, which is a power supply for driving the equipment, is being charged and/ or the remaining amount of charge in the battery,

5 wherein:

the controller controls the connecting section driving mechanism based on the result of the detection by the battery state detector.

26. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 4, further comprising a battery state detector for detecting whether or not a battery, which is a power supply for driving the equipment, is being charged and/ or the remaining amount of charge in the battery,

5 wherein:

the controller controls the connecting section driving mechanism based on the result of the detection by the battery state detector.

27. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in

claim 5, further comprising a battery state detector for detecting whether or not a battery, which is a power supply for driving the equipment, is being charged and/ or the remaining amount of charge in the battery,  
5 wherein:

the controller controls the connecting section driving mechanism based on the result of the detection by the battery state detector.

28. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 6, further comprising a battery state detector for detecting whether or not a battery, which is a power supply for driving the equipment, is being charged and/ or the remaining amount of charge in the battery,  
5 wherein:

the controller controls the connecting section driving mechanism based on the result of the detection by the battery state detector.

29. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 9, further comprising a battery state detector for detecting whether or not a battery, which is a power supply for driving the equipment, is being charged and/ or the remaining amount of charge in the battery,  
5 wherein:

the controller controls the connecting section driving mechanism based on the result of the detection by the battery state detector.

30. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 16, further comprising a battery state detector for detecting whether or not a battery, which is a power supply for driving the equipment, is being charged and/ or the remaining amount of charge in

5 the battery, wherein:

the controller controls the connecting section driving mechanism based on the result of the detection by the battery state detector.

31. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 17, further comprising a battery state detector for detecting whether or not a battery, which is a power supply for driving the equipment, is being charged and/ or the remaining amount of charge in  
5 the battery, wherein:

the controller controls the connecting section driving mechanism based on the result of the detection by the battery state detector.

32. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 1, wherein, when an incoming call is not answered, the two units are arranged in prescribed relative positions according to the number of unanswered calls from the same sender during a prescribed time period  
5 under the control of the controller.

33. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 2, wherein, when an incoming call is not answered, the two units are arranged in prescribed relative positions according to the number of unanswered calls from the same sender during a prescribed time period  
5 under the control of the controller.

34. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 3, wherein, when an incoming call is not answered, the two units are arranged in prescribed relative positions according to the number of unanswered calls from the same sender during a prescribed time period



5 under the control of the controller.

35. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 4, wherein, when an incoming call is not answered, the two units are arranged in prescribed relative positions according to the number of unanswered calls from the same sender during a prescribed time period  
5 under the control of the controller.

36. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 5, wherein, when an incoming call is not answered, the two units are arranged in prescribed relative positions according to the number of unanswered calls from the same sender during a prescribed time period  
5 under the control of the controller.

37. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 6, wherein, when an incoming call is not answered, the two units are arranged in prescribed relative positions according to the number of unanswered calls from the same sender during a prescribed time period  
5 under the control of the controller.

38. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 9, wherein, when an incoming call is not answered, the two units are arranged in prescribed relative positions according to the number of unanswered calls from the same sender during a prescribed time period  
5 under the control of the controller.

39. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 16, wherein, when an incoming call is not answered, the two units are arranged in prescribed relative positions according to the number of unanswered calls from the same sender during a prescribed time period

5 under the control of the controller.

40. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 17, wherein, when an incoming call is not answered, the two units are arranged in prescribed relative positions according to the number of unanswered calls from the same sender during a prescribed time period  
5 under the control of the controller.

41. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 23, wherein, when an incoming call is not answered, the two units are arranged in prescribed relative positions according to the number of unanswered calls from the same sender during a prescribed time period  
5 under the control of the controller.

42. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 24, wherein, when an incoming call is not answered, the two units are arranged in prescribed relative positions according to the number of unanswered calls from the same sender during a prescribed time period  
5 under the control of the controller.

43. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the connecting section has a slide structure including slide rails set on one of the units and slide parts set on the other unit in sliding  
5 engagement with the slide rail; and

the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative positions of the two units by sliding the unit having the slide parts along the slide rails.

44. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in

claim 2, wherein:

the connecting section has a slide structure including slide rails set on one of the units and slide parts set on the other unit in sliding  
5 engagement with the slide rail; and

the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative positions of the two units by sliding the unit having the slide parts along the slide rails.

45. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 3, wherein:

the connecting section has a slide structure including slide rails set on one of the units and slide parts set on the other unit in sliding  
5 engagement with the slide rail; and

the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative positions of the two units by sliding the unit having the slide parts along the slide rails.

46. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 4, wherein:

the connecting section has a slide structure including slide rails set on one of the units and slide parts set on the other unit in sliding  
5 engagement with the slide rail; and

the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative positions of the two units by sliding the unit having the slide parts along the slide rails.

47. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 5, wherein:

the connecting section has a slide structure including slide rails set on one of the units and slide parts set on the other unit in sliding

5 engagement with the slide rail; and

the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative positions of the two units by sliding the unit having the slide parts along the slide rails.

48. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 6, wherein:

the connecting section has a slide structure including slide rails set on one of the units and slide parts set on the other unit in sliding  
5 engagement with the slide rail; and

the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative positions of the two units by sliding the unit having the slide parts along the slide rails.

49. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 9, wherein:

the connecting section has a slide structure including slide rails set on one of the units and slide parts set on the other unit in sliding  
5 engagement with the slide rail; and

the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative positions of the two units by sliding the unit having the slide parts along the slide rails.

50. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 16, wherein:

the connecting section has a slide structure including slide rails set on one of the units and slide parts set on the other unit in sliding  
5 engagement with the slide rail; and

the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative positions of the two units by sliding the unit having the slide parts along

the slide rails.

51. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 17, wherein:

the connecting section has a slide structure including slide rails set on one of the units and slide parts set on the other unit in sliding engagement with the slide rail; and

the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative positions of the two units by sliding the unit having the slide parts along the slide rails.

52. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 23, wherein:

the connecting section has a slide structure including slide rails set on one of the units and slide parts set on the other unit in sliding engagement with the slide rail; and

the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative positions of the two units by sliding the unit having the slide parts along the slide rails.

53. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 24, wherein:

the connecting section has a slide structure including slide rails set on one of the units and slide parts set on the other unit in sliding engagement with the slide rail; and

the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative positions of the two units by sliding the unit having the slide parts along the slide rails.

54. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in

claim 32, wherein:

the connecting section has a slide structure including slide rails set on one of the units and slide parts set on the other unit in sliding engagement with the slide rail; and

the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative positions of the two units by sliding the unit having the slide parts along the slide rails.

55. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 33, wherein:

the connecting section has a slide structure including slide rails set on one of the units and slide parts set on the other unit in sliding engagement with the slide rail; and

the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative positions of the two units by sliding the unit having the slide parts along the slide rails.

56. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the connecting section rotatably supports the two units on a rotation axis substantially perpendicular to a display surface; and

the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative positions of the two units by rotating either or both the units on the rotation axis.

57. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 2, wherein:

the connecting section rotatably supports the two units on a rotation axis substantially perpendicular to a display surface; and

the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative

positions of the two units by rotating either or both the units on the rotation axis.

58. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 3, wherein:

the connecting section rotatably supports the two units on a rotation axis substantially perpendicular to a display surface; and

5 the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative positions of the two units by rotating either or both the units on the rotation axis.

59. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 4, wherein:

the connecting section rotatably supports the two units on a rotation axis substantially perpendicular to a display surface; and

5 the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative positions of the two units by rotating either or both the units on the rotation axis.

60. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 5, wherein:

the connecting section rotatably supports the two units on a rotation axis substantially perpendicular to a display surface; and

5 the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative positions of the two units by rotating either or both the units on the rotation axis.

61. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 6, wherein:

the connecting section rotatably supports the two units on a

rotation axis substantially perpendicular to a display surface; and

- 5           the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative positions of the two units by rotating either or both the units on the rotation axis.

62. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 9, wherein:

the connecting section rotatably supports the two units on a rotation axis substantially perpendicular to a display surface; and

- 5           the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative positions of the two units by rotating either or both the units on the rotation axis.

63. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 16, wherein:

the connecting section rotatably supports the two units on a rotation axis substantially perpendicular to a display surface; and

- 5           the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative positions of the two units by rotating either or both the units on the rotation axis.

64. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 17, wherein:

the connecting section rotatably supports the two units on a rotation axis substantially perpendicular to a display surface; and

- 5           the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative positions of the two units by rotating either or both the units on the rotation axis.

65. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in



claim 23, wherein:

the connecting section rotatably supports the two units on a rotation axis substantially perpendicular to a display surface; and

5 the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative positions of the two units by rotating either or both the units on the rotation axis.

66. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 24, wherein:

the connecting section rotatably supports the two units on a rotation axis substantially perpendicular to a display surface; and

5 the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative positions of the two units by rotating either or both the units on the rotation axis.

67. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 32, wherein:

the connecting section rotatably supports the two units on a rotation axis substantially perpendicular to a display surface; and

5 the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative positions of the two units by rotating either or both the units on the rotation axis.

68. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 33, wherein:

the connecting section rotatably supports the two units on a rotation axis substantially perpendicular to a display surface; and

5 the connecting section driving mechanism changes the relative positions of the two units by rotating either or both the units on the rotation axis.

69. Portable information terminal equipment comprising:  
upper and lower units coupled to one another by a hinge unit;  
a hinge driving mechanism for changing the relative positions  
of the upper and lower units by rotating either or both the units; and

5 a controller for controlling the hinge driving mechanism to  
rotate either or both the units so that they are located at a prescribed  
angle to each other when receiving a call or a message to thereby inform a  
user of the receipt of the call or the message.

70. Portable information terminal equipment comprising:  
upper and lower units coupled to one another by a hinge unit;  
a hinge driving mechanism for changing the relative positions  
of the upper and lower units by rotating either or both the units; and

5 a controller for controlling the hinge driving mechanism to  
rotate either or both the units so that they are located at a prescribed  
angle to each other when receiving a call or a message based on  
information about the sender of the call or the message and/ or the  
received message to thereby inform a user of the receipt of the call or the  
10 message.

71. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in  
claim 69, wherein the controller provides open/ close operation control so  
that the upper and lower units are located at a prescribed angle to each  
other when an incoming call is not acknowledged.

72. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in  
claim 70, wherein the controller provides open/ close operation control so  
that the upper and lower units are located at a prescribed angle to each  
other when an incoming call is not acknowledged.

73. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 69, further comprising a detector for detecting the placed condition of the equipment, wherein:

the controller provides open/ close operation control based on  
5 the placed condition of the equipment detected by the detector.

74. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 70, further comprising a detector for detecting the placed condition of the equipment, wherein:

the controller provides open/ close operation control based on  
5 the placed condition of the equipment detected by the detector.

75. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 71, further comprising a detector for detecting the placed condition of the equipment, wherein:

the controller provides open/ close operation control based on  
5 the placed condition of the equipment detected by the detector.

76. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 72, further comprising a detector for detecting the placed condition of the equipment, wherein:

the controller provides open/ close operation control based on  
5 the placed condition of the equipment detected by the detector.

77. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 70, further comprising a setting interface for registering user settings with respect to open/ close positions associated with the sender information and/ or received message information, wherein:

5 the controller controls the hinge driving mechanism in a

manner so as to change the angle formed between the upper and lower units when receiving a call or a message based on the user settings.

78. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 71, further comprising a setting interface for registering user settings with respect to open/ close positions associated with the sender information and/ or received message information, wherein:

5           the controller controls the hinge driving mechanism in a manner so as to change the angle formed between the upper and lower units when receiving a call or a message based on the user settings.

79. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 72, further comprising a setting interface for registering user settings with respect to open/ close positions associated with the sender information and/ or received message information, wherein:

5           the controller controls the hinge driving mechanism in a manner so as to change the angle formed between the upper and lower units when receiving a call or a message based on the user settings.

80. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 73, further comprising a setting interface for registering user settings with respect to open/ close positions associated with the sender information and/ or received message information, wherein:

5           the controller controls the hinge driving mechanism in a manner so as to change the angle formed between the upper and lower units when receiving a call or a message based on the user settings.

81. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 74, further comprising a setting interface for registering user settings with respect to open/ close positions associated with the sender

information and/ or received message information, wherein:

- 5           the controller controls the hinge driving mechanism in a manner so as to change the angle formed between the upper and lower units when receiving a call or a message based on the user settings.

82. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 75, further comprising a setting interface for registering user settings with respect to open/ close positions associated with the sender information and/ or received message information, wherein:

- 5           the controller controls the hinge driving mechanism in a manner so as to change the angle formed between the upper and lower units when receiving a call or a message based on the user settings.

83. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 76, further comprising a setting interface for registering user settings with respect to open/ close positions associated with the sender information and/ or received message information, wherein:

- 5           the controller controls the hinge driving mechanism in a manner so as to change the angle formed between the upper and lower units when receiving a call or a message based on the user settings.

84. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 69, wherein the upper and lower units repeatedly open/ close at prescribed intervals under the control of the controller.

85. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 70, wherein the upper and lower units repeatedly open/ close at prescribed intervals under the control of the controller.

86. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in

claim 71, wherein the upper and lower units repeatedly open/ close at prescribed intervals under the control of the controller.

87. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 72, wherein the upper and lower units repeatedly open/ close at prescribed intervals under the control of the controller.

88. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 73, wherein the upper and lower units repeatedly open/ close at prescribed intervals under the control of the controller.

89. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 74, wherein the upper and lower units repeatedly open/ close at prescribed intervals under the control of the controller.

90. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 75, wherein the upper and lower units repeatedly open/ close at prescribed intervals under the control of the controller.

91. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 76, wherein the upper and lower units repeatedly open/ close at prescribed intervals under the control of the controller.

92. The portable information terminal equipment claimed in claim 77, wherein the upper and lower units repeatedly open/ close at prescribed intervals under the control of the controller.